

What's New in the MPDC

MAY 20, 2002

AS SUMMER DRIVING SEASON APPROACHES, MPDC STEPS UP TRAFFIC SAFETY EFFORTS

With Memorial Day marking the beginning of the summer driving season, the MPDC is joining forces with other law enforcement and traffic safety agencies to try and make everyone's trip safe. Over the next week, the MPDC will be conducting seat belt and child safety seat checkpoints in all seven police districts, as part of the nationwide Operation ABC (America Buckles-up Children) Mobilization. Chief Ramsey is participating in the national kickoff of the Mobilization, May 20th at Wilson Senior High School in Northwest. This year's effort will focus on teens and

The latest data from DC's photo enforcement programs show continued progress in reducing speeding and red-light running. In April 2002, about 11 percent of the motorists who traveled past photo radar enforcement locations were exceeding the program's speeding threshold. That is down from 31 percent of motorists last July (warning period) and 26 percent last August (first full month of the program). Red-light running violations are down 65 percent through April. Find the latest information and statistics on photo enforcement on the MPDC Traffic Safety page at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm

young adults. New data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that half of the 4,437 teens, ages 16-19,

who died in traffic crashes in the year 2000 were completely unrestrained. DC law requires that the driver and all passengers – both front and rear seat – be buckled up. Violations carry a \$50 fine, plus two points on the driver's license. This year's enforcement push will be supported by more than \$10 million in federal funding for new national TV and radio ads aimed at teens. The Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign of the National Safety Council is sponsoring the seat belt safety ad campaign. Get more information about this year's Operation ABC Mobilization at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Also this coming week, the MPDC is partnering with 40 police agencies in the DC region for the first week of this year's "Smooth Operator" campaign combating aggressive driving. The program targets speeding, red-light running, tailgating, improper lane changes and other forms of aggressive driving during four concentrated periods throughout the summer. For more information, contact Lt. Patrick Burke, the MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator, at 202-727-9346 or e-mail: pburke@mpdc.org

MPDC ASSISTANT CHIEF KIM DINE TAPPED FOR CHIEF'S JOB IN FREDERICK

MPDC Assistant Chief Kim Dine, head of the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility, has been tapped by the city of Frederick, Md., to be its next police chief. Frederick Mayor Jennifer Dougherty announced that if Dine passes a final background check, she will present his name to the Board of Aldermen for approval next month. Dine is a 27-year veteran of the MPDC, having spent most of his time in patrol, as well as managerial assignments in Internal Affairs and Youth and Family Services. In 1998, Chief Ramsey named him commander of the First Police District. He was promoted to assistant chief in charge of OPR in October 2001. Read a brief biography of Chief Dine at:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/org/dinebio.shtm

CRIME IN DC DOWN IN APRIL, LARGELY UNCHANGED FOR THE YEAR

As of May 17, DC was running 15 homicides ahead of last year's total. The 2002 total is still well below the 1998-2001 average for the same time period. But because homicides were exceptionally low in the spring of 2001, this year's homicide count continues to run above last year. However, homicides were higher than average last fall, and MPDC officials hope to end the year under the 2001 total of 233 homicides (which was a 15-year low).

Driven by a sharp reduction in thefts and thefts from auto, the overall crime rate in DC declined 2.6 percent in April, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. General thefts dropped by 22 percent and thefts from auto fell by 9.3 percent, when compared with April 2001 preliminary figures. Arson and sexual assault also declined for the month, while reports of homicide, robbery, aggravated assault and burglary were all higher in April 2002 than in April 2001. Through the first four months of the year, crime in DC is largely unchanged (up 0.3+), according to preliminary statistics. Six of the nine major crime types are down when compared with the January-April time frame last year: sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, theft, theft

from auto and arson. Three crime types – homicide, burglary and auto theft – are up for the year. You can get preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole by visiting:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats.shtm

Looking for an innovative way to combat auto theft, protect your vehicle and increase its chances of recovery if it is stolen? Then register for the free "Watch Your Car" program by calling 1-877-DC2-STOP or logging on to:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtm

MPDC GRADUATES SIX NEW HORSE MOUNTED POLICE OFFICERS

The MPDC has six new horse mounted police officers who are ready and trained to hit the streets on horseback. The six veteran MPDC officers received certificates and special pins during graduation ceremonies Friday at the US Park Police Stables in Northwest. They also performed a musical

ride to demonstrate their newly honed skills. The officers completed 400

hours of specialized training covering everything from the anatomy and care of horses to riding and mounted policing techniques. The training, and most of the horses, were provided by the US Park Police Mounted Unit, which Chief Ramsey described as the "best in the business." With two sergeants previously trained as horse mounted police officers, the MPDC now has an eight-member unit. Ramsey said the MPDC will continue to use the horses for both crowd control and neighborhood policing. Read the news release at:

While the MPDC now has eight horse mounted police officers, the Department still has only two horses, and will have to rely on the continued cooperation of the Park Police for the near term. The MPDC welcomes any donations of horses or equipment to support its growing Mounted Unit. If you are interested in contributing, contact the Office of the Executive Assistant Chief at 202-727-4363.

Congratulations to the members of Horse Mounted Class 2002: Officers Eric Coates, Dennis Hamel, Melvin Lee, Michael Mentzer and Thomas Stewart, and Detective Jose Rodriguez.

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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MPDC.DC.GOV